



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277  
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758  
Dawn Clenney - FBI (313) 237-4206

Mar 14, 2007

---

**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Niquella Hardwick**

**FORMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER  
SENTENCED FOR HARASSMENT**

---

Niquella Hardwick, a 27-year-old former elementary school teacher from LaMarque, Texas, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Detroit to 24 months in prison for a sustained pattern of harassment against numerous victims in the fall of 2005 that involved numerous obscene, harassing, and no-answer telephone calls and text messages, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detroit, Michigan.

The 24-month sentence was imposed on Hardwick by United States District Judge Sean F. Cox, who also imposed a term of one year of supervised release and a special assessment of \$500.

Hardwick pleaded guilty in November, 2006, to five counts of making obscene interstate telecommunications with intent to harass, of making anonymous interstate telecom-

munications with intent to harass, and of making no-answer telephone calls with intent to harass. These charges involved literally hundreds of harassing calls and text messages from Texas to victims in the Detroit area. In addition to these charges, the defendant was held responsible, under the plea agreement, for additional instances of telephone harassment against numerous victims, as well as for other illegal conduct, including identity theft, credit card fraud, computer intrusion, and unlawful access to stored communications (email messages) against yet additional victims.

U.S. Attorney Murphy said, "Aggravated cases of harassment can sometimes cause extreme emotional and financial damage to victims, who are left coping the aftermath of the defendant's misguided wrath. Swift action by the FBI and the prosecution team put an end to what can only be described as the scourge of damaging harassment caused by this defendant."

Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detroit, Michigan advised, "The FBI takes these violations seriously in an effort to protect the public from individuals who misuse the telephone and the Internet to invade the privacy of others."

At the time of sentencing one of the victims, whose three daughters and wife were also among the targets of harassment, addressed the Court and highlighted the trauma the victims were put through, and the fact that they still live with that trauma every day. He told the court that, because of Hardwick's harassment, his family's first concern after moving to a new state was how many alarms to put in their house. He also spoke about Hardwick's apparent lack of remorse and of the fact that, even after she was arrested the first time, she continued to harass people as soon as she was released. He closed by saying that "Judge, we all pray that you don't ever see the defendant again, but collectively, we fear that you will."

In imposing sentence, Judge Cox stated to the defendant that "I have had stalking cases as a state court judge, and never ever seen anything like this. The hell you put the victims through cannot be justified, the violation of their privacy cannot be justified. Your harassment wasn't just criminal, it was incredible."

Judge Cox ordered that the defendant submit to mental treatment and continue to take

any prescribed medication. He also ordered her not to contact any victim, their family members, or their acquaintances, directly or indirectly, including by telephone, third party, messenger or any other means of communication, including at their homes, schools, places of business or routes of travel.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Cohen.